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THE DEPOSITION OF Mr. William Carſtares,

When he was Examined before the Lords of Secret Committee, given in by him, and renewed upon Oath upon the 22. of December 1684. *in preſence of the Lords of His Majeſty's Privy-Council.*

Edinburgh-Caſtle, *September* 8. 1684.

MR. *William Carſtares* being Examin'd upon Oath, conform to the Condeſcention given in by him, and on the Terms therein-mention'd, Depones, That about *November* or *December* 1682. *James Stuart*, Brother to the Laird of *Cultneſs*, wrote a Letter to him from *Holland*, importing, that if any conſiderable ſum of Money could be procur'd from *England*, that ſomething of importance might be done in *Scotland*: The which Letter, the Deponent had an inclination to inform *Shepard* in *Abb-Church-lane*, Merchant in *London* of; but before he would do it, he wrote to Mr. *Stuart* above-nam'd, to know from him if he might do it; and Mr. *Stuart* having conſented, he Communicate the ſaid Letter to Mr. *Shepard*, who told the Deponent that he would Communicate the Contents of it to ſome perſons in *England*; but did at that time name no body, as the Deponent thinks: Some time thereafter, Mr. *Shepard* told the Deponent, that he had Communicate the Contents of the Letter above-named, to Colonel *Sidney*, and that Colonel *Danvers* was preſent, and told the Deponent, that Colonel *Sidney* was averſe from imploying the late Earl of *Argile*, or medling with him, judging him a man too much affected to the Royal Family, and inclin'd to the preſent Church-Government; yet Mr. *Shepard* being put upon it by the Deponent, ſtill urg'd, that one might be ſent to the Earl of *Argile*; but as Mr. *Shepard* told him, he was ſuſpected upon the account of his urging ſo much; yet afterwards he preſs'd, without the Deponents knowledge, that the Deponent being to go to *Holland* however, might have ſome Commiſſion to the Earl of *Argile*, which he having inform'd the Deponent of, the Deponent told him, that he himſelf would not be concern'd, but if they would ſend another, he would introduce him; but nothing of this was done: upon which the Deponent went over, without any Commiſſion from any body, to *Holland*, never meeting with *James Stuart* above-named: He was introduced to the Earl of *Argile*, with whom he had never before convers'd; and did there diſcourſe what had paſt betwixt Mr. *Shepard* and him; and particularly, about remitting of Money to the ſaid Earl from *England*; of which, the ſaid Mr. *Stuart* had written to the Deponent, namely of 30000 pounds

Sterling; and of the raising of 1000 Horse and Dragoons; and the securing the Castle of *Edinburgh*, as a matter of the greatest importance: The method of doing this was propos'd by the Deponent, to be one hour, or thereby, after the relieving of the Guards: But the Earl did not relish this proposition, as dangerous; and that the Castles would fall of consequence, after the work abroad was done. *James Stuart* was of the Deponents Opinion, for seizing the Castle; because it would secure *Edinburgh*, the Magazines and Arms. As to the 1000 Horse and Dragoons, my Lord *Argile* was of Opinion, that without them nothing was to be done; and that if that number were rais'd in *England* to the said Earl, he would come into *Scotland* with them; and that there being so few Horse and Dragoons to meet them, he judg'd he might get the Countrey without trouble, having such a standing Body for their Friends to Rendezvouze to; and the said Earl said he could shew the Deponent the convenient places for Landing, if he understood; and as the Deponent remembers, where the Ships could attend. The Deponent remembers not the Names of the places. The Deponent spoke to the Lord *Stairs*, but cannot be positive that he nam'd the Affair to him, but found him shy: but the Earl of *Argile* told him, he thought *Stairs* might be gain'd to them: And that the Earl of *London* being a man of good Reason and disoblig'd, would have great influence upon the Countrey, and recommended the Deponent to Major *Holms*, with whom the Deponent had some acquaintance before, and had brought over a Letter from him to the Earl of *Argile*; but the Deponent had not then communicate any thing to the said *Holms*. *James Stuart* laid down a way of correspondence by Cyphers and false Names, and sent them over to *Holms*, and the Deponent, for their use (which Cyphers and Names are now in the hands of His Majesty's Officers, as the Deponent supposes,) and did desire the Deponent earnestly to propose the 30000 pound *Sterling* above-named to the Party in *England*, and did not propose any less; for as the Earl told the Deponent, he had particularly calculate the Expence for Arms, Ammunition, *&c.* But *James Stuart* said, that if some less could be had, the Earl would content himself, if better might not be, but the Earl always said that there was nothing to be done without the body of Horse and Dragoons above-mentioned; During the time of the Deponent his abode in *Holland*, tho he had several Letters from *Shepard*, yet there was no satisfactory account, till some time after the Deponent parted from the Earl of *Argile*, and was making for a Ship at *Rotterdam* to transport himself to *England*. *James Stuart* wrote to him that there was hopes of the Money. The next day after the Deponent came to *England*, he met with Sir *John Cochran*, who with Commissar *Monro*, and *Jervisword*, was at *London* before he came over; and depones, That he knows not the account of their coming, more than for the perfecting the Transaction about *Carolina*: and having acquainted Sir *John Cochran* with the Earls demands of the 30000 pound *Sterling*, and the 1000 Horse and Dragoons, Sir *John* carried him to the Lord *Russel*, to whom the Deponent proposed the Affair, but being an absolute Stranger to the Deponent, had no return from him at that time; but afterwards having met him accidently at Mr. *Shepards* house, where he the Lord *Russel* had come to speak to *Shepard* about the Money abovenamed, as Mr. *Shepard* told the Deponent. The Deponent (when they were done speaking) desired

ſired to ſpeak to the Lord *Ruſſel*, which the Lord *Ruſſel* did, and having reiterate the former Propoſition for the 30000 pound *Sterling*, and the 1000 Horſe and Dragoons, he the Lord *Ruſſel* told the Deponent, they could not get ſo much raiſed at the time, but if they had 10000 pound to begin, that would draw People in, and when they were once in, they would ſoon be brought to more; but as for the 1000 Horſe and Dragoons, he could ſay nothing at the preſent, for that behoved to be concerted upon the Borders. The Deponent made the ſame propoſal to Mr. *Ferguſon*, who was much concerned in the Affair, and zealous for the promoting of it. This Mr. *Ferguſon* had in *October* or *November* before, as the Deponent remembers in a Converſation with the Deponent in *Cheap-ſide*, or the Street ſomewhere thereabout, ſaid, that for the ſaving of innocent Blood, it would be neceſſary to cut off a few, inſinuating the King and Duke, but cannot be poſitive whether he named them or not; To which the Deponent ſaid, that's work for our wild People in *Scotland*, my Conſcience does not ſerve me for ſuch things; after which the Deponent had never any particular diſcourſe with *Ferguſon* as to that matter; but as to the other Affair, *Ferguſon* told the Deponent that he was doing what he could to get it effectuate, as particularly that he ſpoke to one Major *Wildman* who is not of the Deponent his acquaintance. *Ferguſon* blamed always *Sidney*, as driving deſigns of his own. The Deponent met twice or thrice with the Lord *Melvil*, Sir *John Cochran*, *Jerviſwood*, Commiſſar *Monro*, the two *Ceſsnocks*, *Montgomery* of *Langſhaw*, and one Mr. *Veatch*, where they diſcourſed of Money to be ſent to *Argyle*, in order to the carrying on the Affair, and tho he cannot be poſitive the Affair was named, yet it was underſtood by himſelf, and as he conceives by all preſent, to be for riſing in Arms, for rectifying the Government. Commiſſary *Monro*, Lord *Melvil*, and the two *Ceſsnocks*, were againſt medling with the *Engliſh*, becauſe they judged them men that would talk, and would not do, but were more inclined to do ſomething by themſelves, if it could be done. The Lord *Melvil* thought every thing hazardous, and therefore the Deponent cannot ſay he was poſitive in any thing, but was moſt inclined to have the Duke of *Monmouth* to head them in *Scotland*, of which no particular method was laid down. *Jerviſwood*, the Deponent, and Mr. *Veatch*, were for taking the Money; at one of theſe Meetings it was reſolved, that Mr. *Martin*, late Clerk of the Juſtice Court, ſhould be ſent to *Scotland*, to deſire their Friends to hinder the Country from Riſing, or taking raſh Reſolutions upon the account of the Council, till they ſhould ſee how matters went in *England*. The ſaid *Martin* did go at the Charges of the Gentlemen of the Meeting, and was directed to the Laird of *Polwart* and *Torwoodlie*, who ſent back word, that it would not be found ſo eaſie a matter to get the Gentrie of *Scotland* to concur: But afterwards in a Letter to Commiſſar *Monro*, *Polwart* wrote that the Countrey was readier to concur than they had imagined, or ſomething to that purpoſe. The Deponent, as above-ſaid, having brought over a Key from *Holland*, to ſerve himſelf and Major *Holms*: he remembers not that ever he had an exact Copy of it, but that ſometimes the one, ſometimes the other keeped it, and ſo it chanced to be in his cuſtody when a Letter from the Earl of *Argile* came to Major *Holms*, intimating, that he would join with the Duke of *Monmouth*, and follow his Meaſures, or obey his Directions: this Mr. *Veatch* thought fit to communicate to the Duke of *Monmouth*, and for the Underſtanding of it was brought to the

Deponent

Deponent, and he gave the Key to Mr. *Veatch*, who as the Deponent was informed, was to give it and the Letter to Mr. *Ferguſon*, and he to ſhew it to the Duke of *Monmouth*; but what was done in it the Deponent knows not. The Deponent heard the Deſign of Killing the King and Duke, from Mr. *Shepard*, who told the Deponent ſome were full upon it. The Deponent heard that *Aaron Smith* was ſent by thoſe in *England* to call Sir *John Cochran*, on the account of *Carolina*, but that he does not know *Aaron Smith*, nor any more of that matter, not being concerned in it. *Shepard* named young *Hamden* frequently as concerned in theſe Matters.

Signed at *Edinburgh* Caſtle, the 8th of *September*, 1684. and renewed the 18th of the ſame Moneth.

William Carſtares.

PERTH CANCELL. *I.P.D.*

Edinburgh Caſtle *September* 18. 1684.

MR. *William Carſtares* being again Examined, adheres to his former Depoſition, in all the parts of it, and Depones he knows of no Correſpondence betwixt *Scotland* and *England*, except by *Martin* before-named; for thoſe Gentlemen to whom he was ſent, were left to follow their own Methods. *Veatch* as the Deponent remembers, ſtayed ſometimes at *Nicolſon*, Stablers Houſe at *London-Wall*; ſometimes with one Widow *Hardcaſtle* in *Moreſields*. The Deponent did Communicate the Deſign on Foot to Doctor *Owen*, Mr. *Griffil*, and Mr. *Meed* at *Stepney*, who all concurred in the promoting of it, and were deſirous it ſhould take effect; and to one Mr. *Freth* in the Temple, Councellor at Law, who ſaid he would ſee what he could do in reference to the Money, but there having gone a Report, that there was no Money to be raiſed, he did nothing in it, nor does the Deponent think him any more concerned in the Affair. *Nelthrop* frequently ſpoke to the Deponent of the Money to be ſent to *Argile*, whether it was got or not, but the Deponent uſed no freedom with him in the Affair. *Goodenough* did inſinuate once, that the Lords were not inclined to the thing, and that before they would ſee what they could do in the City. The Deponent ſaw Mr. *Ferguſon*, and Mr. *Rumſay*, lurking after the Plot broke out, before the Proclamation having gone to *Ferguſon*, in the back of *Biſhop gate-ſtreet*, at ſome new Building, whether he was directed by *Jerviſwood*, who was deſirous to know how things went. *Rumſay* was not of the Deponent his acquaintance before, but they knew as little of the matter as the Deponent. This is what the Deponent remembers, and if any thing come to his Memory, he is to deliver it in betwixt and the firſt of *October*; And this is the Truth, as he ſhall Anſwer to God.

William Carſtares.

PERTH CANCELL. *I. P. D.*

At *Edinburgh*, the 22 of *December*, 1684.

THeſe fore-going four Pages, Subſcribed by Mr. *William Carſtares* Deponent, and by the Lord Chancellor, were acknowledged on Oath by the ſaid Mr. *William Carſtares*, to be his true Depoſitions, and that the Subſcriptions were his, in preſence of us Underſcribers.

William Carſtares.

PERTH CANCELLARIUS.

David Falconer. QUENSBERRY.

George Mekenzie. ATHOL.

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